

R1 CAC Meeting
Lone Pine Visitor Center, 6 pm
May 29, 2014

Present: Jim Satterfield, John Fraley, Mike Shepard, Mike Corkish, Bob Lawson, Lee Anderson, Mark Deleray, Larry Lack, Randy Richard, Paul Fielder, Chancy Jeschke, Tony Anderson, Brent Mitchell, Bernie Cassidy, Chuck Hunt, Mike Rooney, Don & Gretchen Bothwell, Greg Foley, Wally Wilkinson, Jim Vashro, Kari & Grif Gabriel, Roger Diegle, Dave Landstrom, Amy Grout, Jim Williams, and Gary Wolfe

Awards to: Bernie Cassidy, Paul Fielder, Greg Foley, Randy Richard, and Wally Wilkinson. These outgoing members are now Alumni: we will be seeing new member applicants this summer.

Update from Commissioner Wolfe:

1. Paddlefishing in Glendive
2. Proposal to completely close Sage Grouse Season. Commission not comfortable with complete closure, looking for alternatives. Many, many comments coming in.
3. Mountain Lion discussions and debates in R2. There is a constant dynamic tension in R2 on this topic. R2 organized a Mountain Lion working group to address the issue. Balancing the wants & expectations of a variety of user groups. Structured decision making process was very impressive.

FWP Management Update:

1. Jim Williams - R1 White-tailed Buck Harvest overview
2. Black Bears - this area is a destination hunt for black bears. We harvest half the state's black bears in R1. More people are taking them in the spring instead of in the fall.

Dave Landstrom

1. Thanks to Amy for managing this beautiful park. Amy also manages West Shore so she doesn't always get to just hang out in this beautiful facility.
2. We expect to have close to 500k visitors this season.
3. Pursued a perpetual easement at Thompson Falls State Park for many years. We've leased it from DNRC and have taken three runs on making agreement on the lease. 30 acres on the Clark Fork River for \$275k
4. The new Parks Board is up & running and they are taking on some lofty issues, looking at some strategies to guide the State Park system.
5. 75th Anniversary of the State Park system.

Lee Anderson:

1. Saturation patrol on Plum Creek land west of town - OHV issues
2. Shooting of deer in Flathead Valley, 3rd guy has now pled guilty to 5 or 6 counts, will pay restitution and has lost his privileges for 2 years.
3. AIS check stations - running one now up in Coram. It is mandatory to stop with your boat now.
4. Whitefish River Petition - Commission will be making decision on that at the June meeting.

Mark Deleray:

1. Much less fish in R1 since 1/1/14...due to Vashro having more free time
2. Lake Koocanusa - bull trout reg has changed to keep only one over 29 inches. FWP pulled off our harvest a year ago due to declining redd counts.
3. Noxon - crews have completed spring sampling for walleye. Thanks to the CAC advisory group for the help in assessing the public comment.
4. Pine Grove Pond - has exceeded expectations with 30k angler days! It just continues to grow. The contributions from various groups and grants is enabling a paved walking path all the way around the pond.

Update on FWP Funding issue by Jim Satterfield and Gary Wolfe:

- LFAC advisory group was devised to tackle the issue & make recommendations.
- The department is in the process of developing a budget that reflects the scenario of no fee increase. If the department doesn't get a fee increase, FWP must cut \$5.75M from budget which equates to roughly 20 - 25%.

Round Table:

Mike Corkish:

- Fee increase is the hot button issue and I have not yet once talked to anyone that opposes it. It should be doubled!

- Hearing more people wanting to take archery tag (missouri breaks) when you draw a tag like that, you shouldn't be able to hunt a bull anywhere else.

Bob Lawson: Would really like the CAC delve into fee issue when we resume in the fall. A session next fall dedicated to funding would be helpful and about the non-consumptive users too.

Larry Lack:

- Cow tag people are opposed to people getting two tags. FWP should do either-sex tag
- Beaver & bobcat tags would help generate a little bit of income. Other states have down it for years. Have to buy the tag before the season and there is no refund. If it works in other states, it will work here. MT is about 20 years behind the times.

Randy Richard:

- Would like to obtain info on mule deer harvest in #109. The restriction on mule deer ONLY in 109 is a rub with people. Are we really saving the mule deer population...people are just hunting in other locations.
- High incidence of mange in wolves. What's going on?
- Selenium in Koocanusa. Huge concern for the future of Eureka. The levels of selenium has gone way up.

Paul Fielder:

- Montana Plus - event by the Trappers Association in Missoula this weekend at the fairgrounds
- Losing Tom Chianelli - a real good game warden in our area. We will miss Tom!
- Attended IGBC meeting regarding the grizzly bears. Presented letter saying the grizzly bear recovery plan is 21 years old...advised subcommittee that the plan needs to be updated really quickly.
- Regarding license fees - The purchase of the Milk River Ranch will need to be discussed is what his political friends and connections are saying. How/why was so much money spent on that and now department needs a fee increase?

Chancy Jeschke:

- Thanks for all the access
- Can we get any access on the Stillwater River? (north of HWY 93)
- Angler Advisory Forum - would be great to get that going again. Maybe meet quarterly to discuss issues that are coming up / receive updates, etc.
- Rose Creek hatchery - has heard that it's working real well and the kokonee has exceeded expectations.

Chuck Hunt:

- Wild Horse Island /Big Horn Sheep - lack of notice out to the public is problematic and where they are being put. People want more input as to where these sheep go. (possible CAC subcommittee).
- Thanks to Dave & Amy for use of the facility for year-end banquet.
- Fee increase - we have to get this through the legislature. We have to make sure they understand that it has to happen.
- Continue to keep getting land for access as it becomes available. Commissioner Wolfe would like the idea of vetting a land acquisition to the CAC and see if it gets a thumbs up or thumbs down. (This CAC thinks that is a great idea).
- Flathead Lake gill netting issue - we continue to monitor this issue.

Mike Rooney:

- License fees - people he talks with agree it needs to be increased
- Should not be allowed two Elk anywhere in the state
- Project Healing Waters fishing has asked if I could do something with healing waters on the Kootenai? Is there any interest?

Bernie Cassidy:

- Libby Ron & Gun Club - suggestion would be to also have CAC meetings in the outlying areas like T Falls, Libby, etc so that they can see that you all are good hard-working people.
- Talked about the issue of moving federal lands into State control. I think FWP & DNRC should be weighing in on this issue.

Greg Foley:

- Thompson Falls State Park is phenomenal.
- R1 CAC is not just a facade.
- Sage grouse - one year ago I suggested that sage grouse be looked at. This is the one time in my tenure, that I feel that I've been dismissed. Know the recommendation being made in NO sage grouse season.

Wally Wilkinson:

- Will be back as alumnus
- Has the Tribes received any BPA funding for the gill netting?
- Has there been any agreement to work on new management plan. - The Tribes recent letter states that they are not interested in new co-management plan at this time.

Kari Gabriel:

- Wildlife "baby shower" - was a real success! We had 300+ people come through and raised over \$3k in 4 hours.

John Fraley:

Wants to acknowledge what Greg Foley is saying....the very reason for the CAC is to get advance warning on things.

Mike Shepard:

Fee Increase - Dee Brown doesn't like it, it needs to be simplified to only 1 page; drones & hunting technology concerns.

Tony Anderson: When the Director was here last fall, we talked about people losing their preference points if they didn't put in for a year. Why with technology, would someone have to lose their points if they are working in North Dakota for a year? - Commissioner Wolfe will follow up.

Brent Mitchell: The CAC has been very beneficial to the citizenry and to the department.

Jim Satterfield: Thanks the entire CAC for all their efforts. Is impressed with this CAC and announces that he will be leaving in a couple weeks and ending his natural resource career with FWP.

Issues identified for discussion in 2014/2015:

1. Funding issue update
2. Wild Horse Island Bighorn Sheep Management
3. Angler Advisory Forum - would be great to get this going again & meet quarterly
4. Sub-committee group for access on Stillwater River north of HWY 93

Have a great summer!